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Agenda item 20 (b)

STRENGTHENING OF THE COORDINATION OF HUMANITARIAN AND DISASTER RELIEF ASSISTANCE OF THE UNITED NATIONS, INCLUDING SPECIAL ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE: SPECIAL ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE TO INDIVIDUAL COUNTRIES OR REGIONS

Liberia: revised draft resolution

Emergency assistance to the Sudan

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolutions 43/8 of 18 October and 43/52 of 6 December 1988, 44/12 of 24 October 1989, 45/226 of 21 December 1990, 46/178 of 19 December 1991, 47/162 of 18 December 1992, 48/200 of 21 December 1993, 49/21 K of 20 December 1994, 50/58 J of 22 December 1995 and 51/30 I of 17 December 1996 on assistance to the Sudan,

Noting the declining contributions to the 1997 consolidated inter-agency appeal for Operation Lifeline Sudan despite the progress made in the Operation, and noting also that considerable relief needs still remain to be addressed, in particular in the areas of non-food assistance, including assistance to combat malaria, and for logistics, emergency recovery, rehabilitation and development,

Recognizing the need in emergency situations to address the continuum of relief, rehabilitation and development so as to reduce dependence on external food aid and other relief services,

Taking note of the report of the Secretary-General,[1]

1. Acknowledges with appreciation the cooperation by the Government of the Sudan with the United Nations, including the agreements and arrangements achieved to facilitate relief operations towards improvement of United Nations

[1] A/52/525.

assistance to affected areas, and encourages the continuation of that cooperation;

2. Stresses the need for Operation Lifeline Sudan to be operated with a view to ensuring its efficiency, transparency and effectiveness, with the full participation of the Government of the Sudan in its management and operation, including conducting of assessment, allocation, distribution and evaluation processes, as well as consultations in the preparation of the consolidated annual inter-agency appeal for the Operation;

3. Stresses also that Operation Lifeline Sudan should operate within the principle of national sovereignty and the framework of international cooperation in accordance with relevant national and international law;

4. Calls upon the international community to continue to contribute generously to the emergency needs, recovery and development of the country;

5. Urges the international community to give priority to assistance for the rehabilitation of roads, railways and airports and to provision of means of road transport in order to facilitate relief supplies to the affected areas;

6. Calls upon the donor community and the organizations of the United Nations system to provide financial, technical and medical assistance, guided by the actions called for by the General Assembly in its relevant resolutions to combat malaria and other epidemics in the Sudan;

7. Takes note of and is encouraged by the signing in April 1997 of the Peace Agreement between the Government of the Sudan and many factions of the rebel movement for the achievement of peace in the Sudan, and is encouraged further by the joint announcement by the Government and the remaining faction of the rebel movement that they are engaged in peace talks, scheduled to resume in early 1998, under the auspices of the Intergovernmental Authority on Development of the countries of the Horn of Africa and the acceptance by the parties of the Declaration of Principles as the basis for consultation and negotiation so as to establish durable peace and stability in the country and to facilitate relief supplies;

8. Urges the international community to support the programmes of rehabilitation, settlement and integration of returnees, refugees and the internally displaced;

9. Stresses the importance of assuring safe access for personnel providing relief assistance to all in need, and the importance of strict observance of the principles and guidelines of Operation Lifeline Sudan;

10. Urges all parties involved to continue to offer all feasible assistance, including facilitating the movement of relief supplies and personnel, so as to guarantee maximum success of Operation Lifeline Sudan in all affected parts of the country, with special emphasis on national capacity-building in the humanitarian field for governmental and non-governmental organizations;

11. Also urges all the parties to the conflict to desist from using anti-personnel mines, and calls upon the international community to refrain from supplying mines to the parties of the conflict and to provide the Government of the Sudan with financial and technical assistance in mine clearance;

12. Requests the Secretary-General to continue to mobilize and coordinate resources and support for Operation Lifeline Sudan and to report on the emergency situation in the affected areas and the recovery, rehabilitation and development of the country to the General Assembly at its fifty-third session.